

ACROSS THE BORDER.

Torreón Enterprise: A report from Guanacevi, Durango, is to the effect that the De Soto mine has been sold by Arturo Longega to J. A. Coram, of Boston, Mass., for \$600,000 Mexican money. About 200 men are at work in the mine and a 100-ton concentrating plant is to be built at once. It is claimed that \$400,000 worth of ore is on the patios and \$800,000 worth is blocked out.

Torreón Enterprise: The Guggenheim party returned in their private car "Starlight" from Velardeña last Sunday. Besides Mr. Daniel Guggenheim and his brother there was in the party, Silas W. Eckles, Vice President of the American Smelting and Refining Company, H. R. Simpson, General Southern Superintendent of the same company, and E. C. Knight, Superintendent of Smelter No. 3, at Monterey. When asked relative to the erection of the proposed 1000 ton smelter at Velardeña, Mr. Guggenheim said it would certainly be built, ground for it had been surveyed and work would be commenced by the first of the year.

El Paso Herald: It is believed that the desire for reaching the west coast of Mexico as quickly as possible is due principally to the fact that the completion of the Panama canal will place the country's western coast in easier communication with the eastern markets, and the railroad reaching the west coast will have a very great advantage over all other competitors. There is belief that the Orient will be the first railroad to reach the west coast of Mexico, with possibly the Central a close second. Indications now point to energetic work on the construction of the Stilwell line from now on, as it is said that President Stilwell has succeeded in securing plenty of funds to push the road ahead in Mexico, which is being done at the present time.

Torreón Enterprise: A report covering the operations of the immense plant of the American Smelting & Refining Company at Aguascalientes for the fiscal year 1903-4 has been made public. It shows that ore to the amount of 343,218,647 kilograms, or about 373,000 tons, was treated in the twelve months. This was an increase of 37,750,640 kilograms compared with the preceding fiscal year. The average number of men employed during the year was 1,637, against 1,564 employed the year before and the wages paid amounted to \$670,811, Mexican currency, an increase of \$58,924 over the wages paid in the fiscal year 1902-3. In the construction of two new furnaces and in other improvements to the plant the company spent nearly \$500,000.

Mexican Herald: Little doubt remains that the Coahuila and Pacific will be extended from Saltillo to Monterey, and it is probable the road will be built westward from Torreón into the state of Durango. R. U. Atkins, general freight and passenger agent of the road, G. P. Myers and W. R. Stratford, of New York, directors of the road, who were in Mexico City for a few days last week, have left for St. Louis. As the result of their visit, it is said,

It will be but a short time before the road is acquired by an American syndicate which will expend several million dollars on the property. About two years ago the Coahuila and Pacific went into the hands of a receiver. Under the receiver's management it has done some better, but on account of its limited field there is little hope for a great improvement. Some time ago it was announced that an American syndicate had been organized to take over the property but it was stated by one of the men who were here last week that that plan has failed although it was true a re-organization would be effected soon that would result in the extension of the road. According to the plans of the men who expected to acquire the property the line was to be made a transcontinental line. It was to be extended westward from Torreón to the Pacific and eastward to Tampico.

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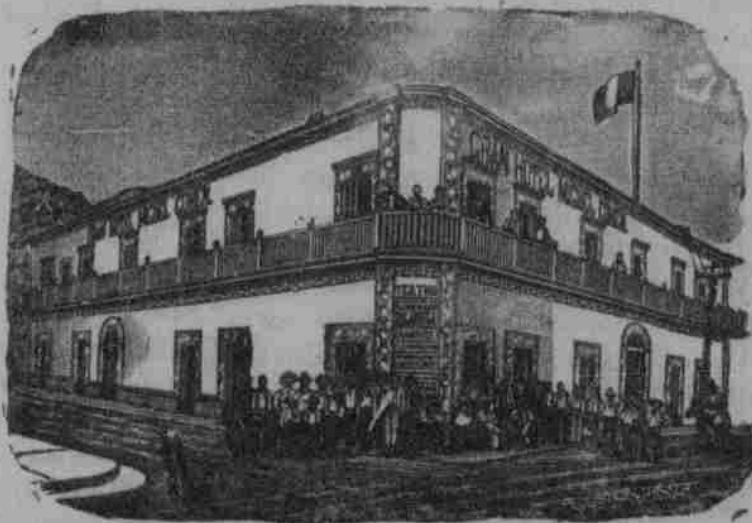
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